

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177, STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Every Student Succeeds Act. This legislation represents a significant bipartisan achievement and one that is long overdue.

For 14 years, our nation's public schools have operated under a well-intentioned but flawed education law, the No Child Left Behind Act. This law set aspirational goals for student learning, and it helped call attention to persistent achievement gaps between groups of students. But No Child Left Behind's rigid measure of academic achievement—that is, the requirement that schools demonstrate adequately yearly progress—and the law's one-size-fits-all interventions for low-performing schools proved to be unworkable.

The unfortunate consequences of No Child Left Behind's inflexible requirements have plagued schools in northwest Oregon and in communities across the country. As states were forced to demonstrate leaps in student achievement, an era of high-stakes testing took much of the joy out of teaching and learning. The drive for higher test scores pressured many schools to narrow their curricular offerings. Schools shifted resources away from arts and music, history, and foreign languages to bolster the tested subjects.

This is the day that students, teachers, school board members, and families across the country have been waiting for—Congress has finally reached an agreement to leave behind No Child Left Behind.

The Every Student Succeeds Act is not perfect legislation, but reaching a bipartisan agreement requires compromise. For example, the bill eliminates or consolidates nearly 50 education programs. Although some of these programs were unfunded, merging the others creates genuine concerns about some states disinvesting in current priorities, like physical education, and spending the money elsewhere. The bill maintains the Secretary of Education's authority to hold states accountable to the law, but it also places new restrictions on the Secretary that raise questions about the federal government's ability to act.

The Every Student Succeeds Act provides a great deal of discretion to states and school districts to improve schools where students are underperforming. Certainly returning control to states and school districts is welcome. Local school boards, superintendents, and educators are best equipped to design school improvement activities that will be effective in their communities. Yet the bill could have done more to make sure that schools make timely improvements when subgroups of students, such as English learners, students of color, low-income students, and students of disabilities, continue to lag behind their peers.

Despite these concerns, the Every Student Succeeds Act represents a significant improvement for our nation's students and schools. The bill authorizes increased funding, which is especially important because more than half of our country's public school students now come from low-income households. The bill rejects a proposal to make Title I funding “portable,” which would have diverted funding from communities with high concentrations of poverty to affluent school districts. And the bill includes a maintenance-of-effort requirement to help make sure states are adequately funding their schools.

The Every Student Succeeds Act also eliminates No Child Left Behind's federal accountability system and directs states to design systems for identifying schools in need of additional support. Importantly, the bill puts in place meaningful requirements for the accountability systems designed by states, including a requirement that state systems give substantial consideration to academic achievement and trigger action in any school where subgroups of students are underperforming. In this way, the Every Student Succeeds Act remains true to the civil rights legacy of the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The law will continue to require states to identify achievement gaps between groups of students and target resources to schools that need more support to close achievement gaps.

Importantly, the bill also reduces testing and the high stakes associated with statewide exams. The bill requires states to evaluate schools using multiple measures of student learning, so schools will not be held accountable for test scores alone. Additionally, the Every Student Succeeds Act establishes a pilot program for some states to develop alternative assessment systems. I am particularly pleased that the bill includes language from the Support Making Assessments Reliable and Timely (SMART) Act, bipartisan legislation I authored to help reduce testing. This provision gives resources to districts to eliminate the unnecessary or duplicative assessments that proliferated under No Child Left Behind. This provision also helps districts make better use of assessments by speeding the delivery of assessment results to educators, students, and families and by giving educators more time to plan in response to assessment data.

The Every Student Succeeds Act includes support for well-rounded education. I worked to include a provision in this section to make clear that schools can use federal resources to integrate arts and music into STEM courses. STEAM education, which combines arts and music with STEM subjects, educates both halves of students' brains; it teaches them to think creatively while they develop technical skills. Highly-skilled students who are also able to develop one-of-a-kind solutions to problems will excel in an economy that values innovation.

Overall, the Every Student Succeeds Act strengthens our nation's system of public education. The bill correctly recognizes that teach-

ers and principals are skilled professionals who know what is best for their students. At the same time, the bill puts in place common-sense requirements to improve achievement among students who have historically been underserved by public education. In other words, the bill strikes the appropriate balance of returning decision making to states and local communities without diluting the federal government's role in upholding our country's promise to deliver equal educational opportunities and outcomes to all students.

I would like to thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member SCOTT, Chairman ALEXANDER, and Ranking Member MURRAY for their tremendous leadership on this bill. The Every Student Succeeds Act is moving forward with strong bipartisan, bicameral support because these leaders were willing to find common ground for the good of our country's students and educators.

I have visited schools throughout my district and spoken with educators and students in urban and rural communities. In each community I visit, I am reminded of the urgency of efforts to end the test-and-punish culture created by No Child Left Behind. It is a great honor to be able to support the Every Student Succeeds Act to chart a better path forward for our country's educators and students. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DANIEL PEARSON TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Doctor Daniel Pearson. Dr. Pearson has served on Capitol Hill for the past quarter century, most recently as the Minority Staff Director for the Oversight Subcommittee.

Dr. Pearson came to the Committee with a PhD in Political Science from the University of Washington and a keen interest in public service. His commitment has always been to good public policy and integrity in government rather than simply partisan politics. That commitment is exemplified by the fact that he has worked effectively for both Republican and Democratic Members of Congress over his congressional career.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Pearson led investigations and oversight activities for Congressman Sherry Boehlert (R-NY). He also worked for former Committee Chairman George Brown (D-CA), Democratic Ranking Member Ralph Hall, and former Chairman Bart Gordon prior to becoming Minority staff director for the

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Oversight Subcommittee after I became Ranking Member in 2011.

Because of the wide-ranging oversight jurisdiction of the Committee, Dr. Pearson has been involved in investigating multiple federal agencies, from the Department of Energy to the Department of Homeland Security, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, covering a broad array of science and technology issues. He leaves behind a legacy of helping to reign in waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement throughout the federal government dating back to the Science Committee's investigation of environmental crimes at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant.

Dr. Pearson's oversight efforts have helped to uncover mismanagement of federal resources, projects and programs. He helped to re-open a network of key EPA regional libraries that had been inexplicably closed. He investigated the Veterans Administration's inappropriate destruction of an irreplaceable collection of biological samples, including the legionella bacteria that causes Legionnaires disease. He managed an investigation into an important Department of Homeland Security (DHS) laboratory called the Environmental Measurements Laboratory (EML) that revealed the DHS Science & Technology Directorate had intended to close this crucial lab without informing Congress. Dr. Pearson's efforts resulted in saving this lab from closure. His oversight efforts also resulted in the withdrawal of federal funding from a technically troubled and poorly managed aerospace project called the DP-2. His investigation of the mishandling of a critical radioactive isotope, Helium-3, used for the identification and detection of dangerous radioactive material, helped put management of that program back on track.

Dr. Pearson's oversight work on scientific integrity and public health resulted in several investigations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) including its sister agency the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). These investigations led to the public disclosure of a flawed public health report on the potentially toxic levels of formaldehyde in trailers provided to survivors of Hurricane Katrina and Rita by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and a flawed CDC report on the levels of lead-in-water in Washington, D.C. In that instance, the Committee's investigation prompted an internal CDC investigation of its Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch and the agency issued two separate formal notifications correcting its public health study.

In his investigatory and oversight role, Dr. Pearson has been a tireless advocate for people who would otherwise have been left behind by the government. There is no better example of this determination than the work Dan did on behalf of the families of Marines at Camp Lejeune, who we came to learn became sick because of a polluted water supply. It was the kind of staff work that should be admired and copied.

Dr. Pearson has always believed strongly in the institutional oversight authority vested in Congress and the need to investigate alleged wrongdoing by those tasked with overseeing federal agencies. His nonpartisan oversight efforts in this regard contributed to the removal

of three federal Inspector Generals (IGs) from office over the years, one at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and two at the Department of Commerce.

Throughout all of these investigations and oversight activities, Dr. Pearson demonstrated the patience and endurance to keep after wrongdoers in the federal government for months and even years if necessary. Doing investigatory work for a House committee can be thankless task at times, but Dr. Pearson was always willing to do what was necessary to carry out his oversight responsibilities.

In sum, Dr. Pearson has been a critically important member of the Committee staff. He has been passionate about the issues he has worked on, committed to excellence, and a thoughtful mentor to new staff members. I will miss him and dedicated service to the Committee. At the same time, Congress's loss will be his family's gain, and I know that his wife Neddie and his daughter Nora are looking forward to their time together with him in Oregon.

I want to thank him for his selfless professionalism and wish him all the best for the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING COUNCILMAN SCOTT KINCAID FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Flint City Councilman Scott Kincaid for his commitment to the city and for the years he has served as a public servant.

Born in Flint, MI in 1952, Councilman Kincaid has been committed to his hometown most of his life. In 1970, he graduated from Flint Southwestern. After graduation, Councilman Kincaid's strong sense of civic duty led him to serve in the United States Army.

Following his time in the service, Councilman Kincaid worked for GM Fisher and was heavily involved with the UAW. He served on the Executive Board, was the Education Director, and was appointed the Joint Activity Representative for Local 581. By 2003, he was working as the Government Liaison to assist with new plant investments. He is currently the Health Initiatives Coordinator for Region 1C Flint.

In 1985, Councilman Kincaid was first elected to the Flint City Council. He has from that day forward served the City of Flint to the best of his abilities. Councilman Kincaid served as Council President more than once over his tenure with the city.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work and commitment of Councilman Kincaid. It is the dedication of people like him that keeps this city strong.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. WILLIAM E. "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan, who has been a leader in the State of Maryland and in higher education for more than 50 years.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Well, I can tell you that Dr. Kirwan's commitment to leadership and learning over these last 50 years have been indispensable not only to one another, but to higher education in Maryland and across the nation. Leading with integrity and purpose, Dr. Kirwan has earned the trust and respect of faculty, students and other leaders of higher education all over the country.

Throughout his career, Dr. Kirwan has been committed to something he has described as "constructive leadership"—which involves becoming a leader not through division and power, but through unity and service. He has embodied this philosophy at College Park, serving as chancellor of the University System of Maryland for more than 12 years, as president of the University of Maryland for 10 years and as a member of the University's faculty for 24 years.

Dr. Kirwan has also taken his service and expertise beyond College Park, chairing the National Research Council Board of Higher Education and co-chairing the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. He also serves on the boards of more than five organizations—including the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Greater Baltimore Committee, Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore and Maryland Business Roundtable for Education. And he belongs to more than four honorary and professional societies—including Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed. Dr. Kirwan is the recipient of one of the nation's highest honors in higher education—the TIAA-CREF Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence. His invaluable leadership and his commitment to higher education in our state have also been recognized by several Maryland-based government, academic and business organizations.

But perhaps the legacy of Dr. Kirwan's service over these last 50 years is best conveyed in his own words. In a speech delivered to Phi Beta Kappa inductees in 2004, Dr. Kirwan said, "Our nation is in dire need of a new generation of enlightened leadership . . . highly educated, wise leaders who have respect for the individual, for inclusiveness, integrity and the common good." He continued, ". . . our nation and world face a distressing array of enormous challenges, which—without enlightened leadership—will only worsen in the coming years."

If the next generation embodies Dr. Kirwan's commitment to service and enlightened leadership, I am confident that it will successfully take on the world's complex challenges.

HONORING THE CAREER OF CABOT REA

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate longtime WCMH anchor, Cabot Rea, as he retires from broadcast news. For more than 30 years Central Ohioans have welcomed him into their homes and trusted his balanced reporting.

While he worked as a radio announcer when he attended Otterbein College, now Otterbein University, journalism was a second career for Cabot. He first served as the Music and Choral Director at Wilson Junior High in Newark where he was twice named "Teacher of the Year."

He came to the airwaves as a weekend sports anchor and feature reporter in 1985 for WCMH. However, it was as the field anchor for 5:30 Live that Cabot endeared himself to tens of thousands of families across Central Ohio. He proved he was ready for anything by visiting communities, participating in events, and telling the stories of what makes Central Ohio and Central Ohioans so special.

When he teamed up to anchor broadcasts with Colleen Marshall in 1992, no one could have predicted they would enjoy one of the longest tenures in Columbus as co-anchors. For more than 20 years, Cabot and Colleen have been the team viewers turned to in order to learn what was happening across town and around the world.

Even when the cameras were turned off, Cabot's service to the community didn't stop. Whether it was helping those in need with 4's Army, championing NBC4's "Battle against Bullying" campaign, or working with Nationwide Children's Hospital, the Make A Wish Foundation, the Huntington Disease Foundation or the Cancer Support Community Central Ohio, Cabot is a leader in every sense of the word.

One of the most recognizable faces in Central Ohio, viewers will miss his clear, concise reporting and captivating story-telling. I have enjoyed working with Cabot over the years and I congratulate him on his 30-year career as a journalist. I wish him and his wife, Heather, the best in retirement.

HONORING THE FORT HILL HIGH SCHOOL SENTINELS

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievement of the Fort Hill Sentinels, an extraordinary group of young men from Western Maryland who have inspired their community and gained recognition across the state. This month, Fort Hill High School of Cumberland won their third consecutive state football title, winning the Class 1A Maryland State Championship.

On December 5, the Sentinels defeated Havre de Grace 44-14 behind a powerful rushing attack and a strong defense. The Sentinels averaged over 10 yards per play, led by

fullback Raen Smith who ran for 234 yards. Fort Hill is 40-1 over the last three seasons.

The results produced by the Sentinels—win after win after win for three seasons—are a testament to their dedication, teamwork and intelligence, all qualities that we should celebrate. After winning the state title Coach Todd Appel told the Cumberland Times-News the team would be back in the weight room the next week, a testament to the hard work and commitment of the team.

The achievement of the Fort Hill Sentinels should be recognized and recorded for posterity. Congratulations to the Fort Hill Sentinels, Coach Appel and his staff and everyone who played a part in this championship season.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR MICHAEL J. RIGNEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Michael J. Rigney for his dedication to duty and service as a Defense Legislative Fellow to my late respected colleague Chairman C.W. Bill Young of the 13th Congressional district of Florida, as well as his support from within the Pentagon as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison. Major Rigney will be transitioning from his present assignment to serve as an Acquisition Officer at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama.

A native of Long Island, New York, Major Rigney was accepted into the Hofstra University Reserve Officer Training Corps program in 2000, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree and graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate with the class of 2004. Upon graduation, Mike was commissioned as an Army Aviation Branch Officer. He has subsequently earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Prior to entering the Army Congressional Fellowship Program, Mike served in numerous tactical leadership and staff assignments as an Army Aviation Branch Officer, and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter Pilot. Major Rigney's assignments include Flight School Student, United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker, Alabama; Flight Platoon Leader, 4th Battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault), 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, and Baghdad, Iraq; Aviation Brigade Future Plans and Operations Officer, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Baghdad, Iraq; Commander, Bravo Company, 4th Battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment (Task Force Brawler), 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, and Logar Province, Afghanistan; Student, Army Aviation Captain's Career Course, Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker, Alabama. Major Rigney was deployed for 16 months in direct support of combat operations as part of the surge in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2007-2008, and then again for 12 months as part of the surge in Afghanistan, Regional Command—East, in 2009-2010. While deployed, Mike accumulated over 933 hours of combat flight time in direct support of Soldiers in the fight of his nearly 1,300 hours of total military piloting experience.

In 2013, Michael was selected to be an Army Congressional Fellow for a year, working in Chairman Young's personal office on Capitol Hill and very closely with the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense. Next, in his role as a Congressional Budget Liaison, working with both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Michael ensured the Army's budget positions were well represented and articulated. Michael was instrumental in ensuring that Congress was informed of the importance of key Army acquisition programs for the future fighting force.

Mike's interagency coordination and diligent work proved invaluable in assisting Members of Congress and their staff complete the important work of Congressional oversight in support of National Defense and United States foreign policy.

Throughout his career, Major Rigney has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Michael Rigney over the last three years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Michael for his service to his country and we wish him, his wife Jennifer, and sons, Jackson and Luca, all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

HONORING CHARLES DiPERRI IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Charles DiPerri in celebration of reaching his 90th birthday.

As he reflects on the great memories that have highlighted the past ninety years, I know he will think fondly on all that he's accomplished and the positive impact he's had on New Hampshire.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Mr. DiPerri on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING BONNIE CARROLL ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bonnie Carroll on receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her life-long public service and dedication to veterans and their families.

Bonnie is the Founder and President of Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

(TAPS). TAPS was founded in 1994 as the nation's first national support network for the families of fallen service members. Since then, TAPS has supported over 50,000 surviving family members, casualty officers, and caregivers. When President Obama said, of all of the November 24 recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, that "these men and women have enriched our lives and helped define our shared experience as Americans," he was referring in part to the 50,000 lives of surviving military family members that have been touched by Bonnie's work.

TAPS has affected lives through a myriad of undertakings: a 24/7 helpline for those grieving the loss of a loved one, peer-based and community-oriented emotional support, case-work assistance, informational resources, and the annual Good Grief Camp for young people. All of this work is offered at no cost for survivors.

In addition to her service at the helm for TAPS, Bonnie is a retired Major in the Air Force Reserve and currently serves on the Defense Health Board and the Board of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. She also co-chaired the Department of Defense Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Bonnie Carroll for the work she has done on behalf of veterans and their families. Her record of service is truly deserving of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Her work serves as a reminder of our sacred compact with those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to this nation and their families.

IN HONOR OF JON DANA RAGGETT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a remarkable man and to mourn his passing. Jon Raggett was a brilliant engineer, an enthusiastic and accomplished builder of kayaks, and a tireless and generous philanthropist who founded a nonprofit whose mission was to build schools in developing countries. He was also a lifelong friend of mine, who died following a sudden illness on September 26, 2015, at the age of 71.

Jon Dana Raggett was born July 9, 1944, and he grew up in Carmel, California, where his love for boats and the sea was born. Jon graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree, received an MS from Stanford University, and returned to Princeton to complete his Ph.D. in civil engineering. Throughout his engineering career, he brought his keen analytical mind and his imaginative creativity to projects in structural engineering, earthquake research, and the aerodynamic effects of extreme wind on bridges. Through West Wind Laboratory, which he founded in 1988, he performed wind studies on major bridge, architectural, and industrial projects all over the world. Closer to home, Jon worked on the Golden Gate Bridge, including the creation of a suicide barrier and a retrofit to improve the performance of the bridge in high

winds, and he also worked on the new span of the Bay Bridge. John also served as a member of the engineering faculty at Santa Clara University and the Naval Postgraduate School.

In 1994, inspired by Theodore Roosevelt's admonition to "do what you can with what you have," Jon founded Schools3, a nonprofit corporation which began as Jon's attempt to use his engineering skills to address problems of poverty in the developing world. Jon worked on a design for a three-room primary school with an office-storage building and a latrine which could be built with concrete blocks, a metal roof, and finished with plaster walls. This design could be built inexpensively all over the world, and through Schools3 Jon was able to fund and complete the construction of 71 schools in Africa, Honduras, and India. Jon donated his time and the time of his assistant Ann Keeble to Schools3, so every dollar contributed went directly towards the construction of a school, with no overhead, administrative, or marketing costs. In 2002, Schools3 received a commendation for this work from the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee in its report on Foreign Operations.

Jon also used his structural design skills to create musical instruments out of plywood and furniture which was inventive and playful. But his primary passion was for building boats, and designed and built countless beautiful kayaks over the years, no sooner completing one project than he began thinking about how he would improve on the design for the next boat, and there was always a next boat. At Jon's service, his sisters-in-law quoted from Kenneth Grahame's beloved *The Wind in the Willows*: "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats." No one believed this more deeply than Jon Raggett.

Jon and his wife Tory, a talented artist whom he met when they were both 10 years old, raised two sons, Mark and George. When grandchildren Joe, Hugh, Mae, and Owen arrived, Jon took delight in introducing them to the joys of being on the water. Jon's love of his family, his deep commitment to doing what he could to make the world a better place, and his impressive accomplishments in civil engineering combined to create an extraordinary man. His untimely death is an enormous loss not only to his beloved family and many friends, but to the world which he worked so hard to improve. Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House to join me in celebrating the life of this exemplary man and his remarkable accomplishments.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8) to modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century

energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition of The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 8). This bill would reverse America's progress on energy efficiency and energy security. In a time when we need a forward-looking comprehensive energy policy that preserves the environment and provides sustainable energy to American consumers, we cannot afford to reverse course.

The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act would cripple ongoing efforts to curb energy use and promote energy efficiency. This bill removes the effective provisions of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 which require federal buildings to reduce fossil fuel-generated energy. Additionally this bill would make it much harder for the Department of Energy to provide assistance for building code development at the national, state, and local level.

Instead of making needed investments in our energy infrastructure, H.R. 8 continues to protect big oil and gas companies by attacking newer environmental standards and procedures. Section 1101 of this bill makes extremely hazardous changes to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission natural gas pipeline permitting process undermining environmental protections and land owners' rights. This section would force FERC to decide on pipeline applications within 90 days even in cases of extremely complex proposed projects. Additionally, it would undermine land owners' rights by allowing oil and gas companies to use aerial or remote surveys for environmental data instead of actual surveying the land.

As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, I am disappointed that H.R. 8 would make it easier for oil and gas companies to get approval for pipelines through our nation's most treasured areas, our national parks. It also threatens protections in the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Power Act by allowing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to override conditions placed on hydropower project licenses by state and federal agencies that serve to protect wildlife from the potential impacts.

President Obama has stated that he will veto this legislation should it come to his desk because H.R. 8 sidesteps important environmental procedures and actually increases energy consumption and consumer costs. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, H.R. 8 would actually cost American citizens nearly \$20 billion dollars through 2040. Instead of this misguided legislation, I support President Obama's "All-of-the-Above" energy strategy for our country which includes a combination of fossil fuels, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.

I am committed to advancing America's energy policy by moving away from depending on fossil fuels and towards clean and renewable sources of energy. For these reasons, I will vote against the backward path of H.R. 8, The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177,
STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with S. 1177—the Every Student Succeeds Act. I cast my vote in favor of the Every Student Succeeds Act because I believe it is an improvement from No Child Left Behind (NCLB), our nation's current law. However, I strongly believe this legislation falls short in many areas—specifically resource equity, federal authority, and data disaggregation for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students.

While I am pleased that S. 1177 requires schools where students are consistently struggling to report on resource inequities, it does not hold states accountable for these inequities. States with dramatic investment disparities will be required only to identify gaps, not necessarily to close them.

Additionally, this legislation significantly limits secretarial authority by relinquishing much of the responsibility for monitoring and enforcing protections for vulnerable students from the federal government to the states. History shows us that strong federal oversight compelled states to identify and address achievement gaps faced by minority and low-income students. Without this strong oversight, I am concerned that these vulnerable groups will once again fall through the cracks.

Finally, I am very disappointed that S. 1177 does not require that data collected and reported on AAPI students be disaggregated by ethnic subgroups. As the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I have worked to combat the so-called “model minority myth,” which leads people to believe that AAPI students are all high-achieving and successful. In reality, the AAPI population includes over 40 distinct ethnic groups who speak over 100 different languages. However, this diversity in experience and success is often masked when data is not disaggregated by AAPI subgroups. As a result, many AAPI students fail to receive resources that would help them succeed academically.

I believe that S. 1177 is an improvement over the patchwork system our country is currently operating under in the wake of NCLB, but it falls short on the promise to serve all of our children. I will continue to work to ensure that every child, regardless of economic background, race, gender, sexual orientation, family history, or ability receives a free, high-quality education that enables them to achieve the American Dream.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177,
STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Every Student Succeeds

Act (ESSA). It has been 14 years since the last reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and we have desperately needed an update to this critical law. The 2001 No Child Left Behind Act included unworkable provisions and led to the proliferation of high-stakes testing. In order to manage the impact of the law's strict provisions, the federal government has granted waivers to 40 states, resulting in unpredictability and unequal application of the law. The ESSA will correct our previous mistakes by maintaining high standards while giving states and local school districts greater flexibility in achieving them with evidence-based strategies.

At its core, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is a civil rights law that reflects our society's consensus that every state and school district must provide a quality education to all children. In order to fulfill this promise, we must have sufficient information to measure inequities in educational achievement for all groups, and we must ensure states and local governments are taking the steps necessary to close those achievement gaps. For that reason, I am very concerned that the ESSA lacks data disaggregation for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. The AAPI community is extremely diverse with over 48 distinct ethnic groups that face varying challenges in educational achievement. The lack of data disaggregation will prevent us from determining what gaps exist and how best to address them.

Additionally, I am concerned by the lack of key provisions from the Safe Schools Improvement Act and the Student Non-Discrimination Act. I have cosponsored these important pieces of legislation because more must be done to address the harmful effects of bullying and discrimination, particularly for LGBT students. No child should be denied a quality education due to his or her race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic status. This bill takes important steps in the right direction, but the lack of AAPI data disaggregation and important LGBT protections shows there is much work to be done to achieve this goal. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address these flaws.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177,
STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as I've stated before, this conference report is not the bill I would have written on my own. It is a product of compromise, but a product that did not require either side to compromise on our core beliefs. A core belief of mine—and a core belief of my caucus—is that Congress deems authority to the executive branch to interpret, implement, and enforce federal law. That is the foundational tenet of administrative law.

Although some provisions included in the conference report seek to limit the regulatory power of the Department of Education, nothing in this conference report will inhibit or impede the Secretary's authority—as granted by the Constitution—to interpret, implement, and en-

force compliance with the Federal law, including the Secretary's authority to promulgate regulations that clarify and interpret vague statutory terms. Those provisions were carefully negotiated between the Chair and me.

The Every Student Succeeds Act provides states with new flexibility to design systems that hold schools accountable for improving student outcomes, but the Federal government is ultimately responsible for protecting the civil rights of all students. To fulfill that responsibility, the Secretary of Education will maintain regulatory, oversight, and enforcement authority sufficient to fully implement this new law.

HONORING THE DAMASCUS HIGH
SCHOOL SWARMIN' HORNETS

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Damascus High School Swarmin' Hornets for capturing the 2015 Maryland Class 3A State Football Championship last week in Baltimore. The victory by Damascus capped a perfect 14–0 season and is the school's eighth state championship. I'd like to congratulate the Swarmin' Hornets, Coach Eric Wallich and his staff, and everyone associated with the team who made this championship season possible.

The Swarmin' Hornets defeated Dundalk 55–14, a dominating victory that included a record-setting performance by running back Jake Funk, who broke the state mark for touchdowns in a championship game. The team also set the state record for the most points scored in a season. As the Washington Post headline made clear, the Swarmin' Hornets left “no doubt” that they were the best team in the state.

Importantly, the team reached these heights after facing adversity and heartbreak. Last season, the team was defeated in the championship game, but rebounded with an even stronger performance in 2015. That experience—working together for months to persevere and accomplish a goal even after a painful setback—will inform and inspire the young people who compose this team for years to come.

The Damascus community is extremely proud of their team and their achievement, excellence and perseverance should be permanently reflected in the official record of the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF SHELDON SCHLESINGER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of my dear, longtime friend Mr. Sheldon “Shelly” Schlesinger of Broward County, Florida, who sadly passed away on Wednesday, December 2nd at age 85. Shelly was born in Brooklyn, New York, and later moved to Florida where he attended the University of Miami and the University of Miami School of Law, and met his wife of 60 years Barbara.

Shelly's passion for the law and his skills in the courtroom were unrivaled. He practiced for 60 years and worked on landmark cases across the nation representing individuals and consumers. Shelly was recognized in every edition of the book "The Best Lawyers in America" throughout his career. His other honors include induction into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame and receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Florida Verdicts Hall of Fame by the Daily Business Review.

Shelly was not only celebrated for being one of the best trial attorneys in the country, but also fervently served the South Florida community. He was a member of the Board of Governors of Nova Southeastern Law Center and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Broward Community College. Shelly was also one of the founders of the Broward County Trial Lawyers Association and served as the organization's president.

I offer my deepest condolences to Shelly's family. He is survived by his two sons, Scott (m. Anne) and Gregg, as well as his six grandchildren, Charlotte, Alexander, Molly, Theodora, Samuel, and Theodore; and his brother-in-law, Larry Butler (m. Grace).

His presence will be profoundly missed, however his impact in the sphere of law and public service will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay my respects to Sheldon Schlesinger and his family. He was a great friend to me throughout the years. His spirit, loving memory, and legacy will always live on.

HONORING ANDREW LETTERMAN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Letterman for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Andrew is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Andrew is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Andrew for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING RICK FLYNN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rick Flynn, who is well known as an advocate for educators in Macomb County, Michigan. On December 10th, friends of Rick's from throughout Michigan will gather to celebrate his retirement from the Michigan Education Association and to pay tribute to him for his outstanding service.

Rick's deep involvement in the MEA and his policy advocacy at the local, state and national levels has been rooted in his strong conviction that all students deserve a high quality education, and that educators must have the tools and resources they need to provide students with this education. It has been said that Rick has held nearly every conceivable leadership position in the MEA, which, when one reviews his career, seems possible. He served as president of the Fraser Education Association, as a founding member and then as president of MEA-NEA Local 1, as a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the MEA, as an MEA Local 1 Executive Director, and as a member of the NEA's Board of Directors.

Prior to representing teachers, Rick was a well-respected teacher himself. For 27 years he taught American Government in the Fraser Public Schools. As a lifelong advocate for building a stronger Macomb County, it was no surprise that after retiring from the classroom in 2000, Rick applied his knowledge of government to public service of his own. In 2008, he was elected to the Charter Commission for Macomb County, which reshaped government in Michigan's 3rd largest county. Also in 2008, he was appointed by then-Governor Jennifer Granholm to serve on the Oakland University Board of Trustees, where he continues to serve today.

Mr. Speaker, Rick Flynn has served students in Michigan and his fellow education professionals with total commitment and distinction. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his service, in thanking his wife Linda and his sons Andy and David for supporting him throughout his career, and in wishing him well in his retirement from the MEA.

CONGRATULATING TREVOR LOGAN AND TERRY LAMBERT ON THEIR SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN SERVICE HONORS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trevor Logan on being awarded the Springfield Police Department's Citizen Service Medal and Terry Lambert on being awarded the Springfield Police Department's Citizen Service Commendation for their actions on the morning of August 2, 2015.

On that morning both men witnessed an individual drag a woman into an alley and attempt to sexually assault her. Terry, believing

officers were just down the street, quickly rushed to alert them of what he had observed. However, Terry was unable to locate any officers, so he returned to the alley. Before he had returned, Trevor had verbally confronted the suspect and the suspect began to flee. While Trevor continued to assist the victim, Terry followed the suspect and helped officers locate him.

Trevor Logan and Terry Lambert stopped a crime in progress and assisted officers in apprehending and identifying the suspect. Through their actions, both of these men exemplified what it means to be a responsible, upstanding citizen. This example of selflessness and commitment to protecting one's community that these men have embodied is one which we should all strive for.

Mr. Speaker, Trevor Logan and Terry Lambert deserve this body's utmost respect for heroic actions on the morning of August 2, 2015, and I extend to both of them my deepest appreciation for their dedication to ensuring the safety of their community. Their efforts have not only contributed greatly to the Springfield community, but have made me proud to serve the people of Missouri's seventh Congressional District.

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. WILLIAM E. "BRIT" KIRWAN

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Brit Kirwan on the occasion of his retirement as Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

Brit is a true Terp, beginning his career as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland, College Park before rising to serve as its President in 1989. For the past 12 years, he has been Chancellor of the University System, where his passion for education and sincere desire to improve the lives and opportunity for Maryland students leaves an indelible mark on our state. He is also a respected national voice on higher education issues, helping to shape policy for greater accessibility, affordability, and quality.

It has been a great privilege to know and work with Brit over the years. His leadership has been transformative—opening the doors of higher education to underrepresented communities, establishing new partnerships with federal agencies, local schools, and the private sector, and ensuring that the University System of Maryland is a dynamic place of learning. I have always valued his thoughtful counsel.

Many of us were sorry to see Brit leave Maryland in 1998 when he became president of Ohio State University, but we were happy to welcome him back home in 2002. Now, as Brit takes his well-deserved retirement, his legacy is felt by every student who steps on a Maryland campus. I thank him for his many years of service, and wish him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
EDWARD TONINI

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 51st Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Major General Edward W. Tonini, upon his retirement after 47 years of service. Since December 11, 2007, he has admirably served as the Commanding General of both the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard and as Executive Director of the Department of Military Affairs, guiding the preparation of Kentucky's 8,500 citizen soldiers and airmen, along with the Division of Emergency Management, to respond in times of state and national emergency.

He is responsible for Federal and State missions, assignment of leaders, recruiting, training, equipping, mobilization, facilities and public relations. He also oversees the development and coordination of all policies, plans, and programs affecting Army and Air National Guard members in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As a member of the Governor's cabinet and the principle advisor to the Governor on military matters, General Tonini has been a steadfast liaison on homeland security matters and a stalwart advocate for the brave men and women who serve this great Nation.

General Tonini received a direct commission in 1970 in the Kentucky Air National Guard. Prior to receiving his commission, General Tonini served as an enlisted member of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of the Kentucky Air National Guard. His valiant service earned the decoration of the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Force Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Recognition Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, and the Kentucky Merit Ribbon. We are blessed in Kentucky to have such a leader at the helm of our military affairs.

The list of medals, awards and accolades are mere reflections of the outstanding character displayed by General Tonini on a daily basis. His response time is impeccable, whether through organizing deployments overseas or responding to natural disasters in the hills of eastern Kentucky.

His legacy project is undoubtedly the state-of-the-art Joint Support Operations (JSO) Counter-Drug complex located in London, Kentucky. Under his leadership, 1,433 Kentucky National Guard soldiers and airmen have participated in JSO counter-drug operations from the facility, seizing more than 3.4 million marijuana plants with a street value exceeding more than one billion dollars. They also removed nearly 35,000 pounds of illicit drugs from the streets, including cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, methamphetamines and opium. Their work led to the arrest of more than 2,600 people, the seizure of over \$73 million in property and other non-drug assets, 514

weapons, 134 vehicles and more than \$14 million. Beneath his breastplate of courage, beats a true servant's heart for the people of Kentucky and we are grateful for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Major General Edward W. Tonini on a distinguished career of service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States. My wife, Cynthia and I wish General Tonini and his wife, Carol many blissful years of retirement.

BRIT KIRWAN RETIREMENT

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to congratulate William "Brit" Kirwan on the occasion of his retirement after 12 years as chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

As a Terp myself, I have always taken a deep interest in the leadership of the university system and have come to admire Brit's integrity, professionalism and expertise.

Not only is Brit respected academically, he has a great personality and he understands the importance of relationships with elected leaders. His political savvy has helped the university system become a critical economic and workforce development engine in the State of Maryland.

Brit has become a sought-after mentor to other university leaders in areas including college affordability—especially for minority and low-income students—as well as cost containment, innovation in the classroom and diversity.

I truly believe that Brit's vision has helped the University System of Maryland become one of the best in the nation.

Under his leadership, the university system has become more affordable. The average tuition for undergraduate in-state students at university institutions, once the nation's seventh highest, has now dropped to twenty-sixth.

His leadership has strengthened need-based financial aid.

It has reduced the student achievement gap and even eliminated it on some campuses.

It has strengthened Maryland's competitiveness through the research and entrepreneurial efforts of faculty, staff and students.

It has developed the landmark "Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative," which has improved quality while saving more than \$460 million to date and has even been cited by President Obama as a national model.

It has made the university system a national leader in environmental sustainability.

It has improved college completion rates, especially among low-income and minority students.

Brit has also become known for his use of technology to rejuvenate traditional learning methods like the lecture hall. His efforts have increased the number of students showing up for class, eager to learn, while saving money and raising grades.

Let's not forget that Brit spent a quarter century as an educator and administrator prior to becoming Chancellor. Throughout each stage of his career—math professor, administrator,

university president, and chancellor—Brit has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and access for all.

Brit's expertise benefits colleges around the country as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. He chairs the College Board's Commission on Access, Admissions, and Success in Higher Education; and is a member of the Business-Higher Education Forum.

He was also appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. In 2010, he was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, which advises the U.S. Secretary of Education on accreditation issues and certification processes for colleges and universities.

Locally, Brit is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, and the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education.

He is the well-deserved recipient of too many awards and accolades to list in their entirety, but they include the Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence, which is considered one of the nation's top higher education honors.

In 2009, he received the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award, which included a \$500,000 grant to fund University System of Maryland academic priorities.

I consider him a personal friend. He is a true gentleman and each of his day-to-day interactions are marked with civility and graciousness. This is a rare quality in today's world.

He leaves big shoes to fill.

I congratulate him on a spectacular career that has spanned more than a half-century and wish him many more years of happiness with his wife and family in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes yesterday, due to an illness. However, if I was able to vote, I would have voted the following way:

1) H.R. 158—Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act—YES.

2) H.R. 3842—Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers Reform and Improvement Act—YES.

**MEDIA BIAS POSES A THREAT TO
OUR COUNTRY**

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, media bias poses one of the greatest threats to our country.

The liberal national media should provide the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think. If voters don't have the facts, they can't make good decisions. And if

they can't make good decisions, our democratic form of government is at risk.

Media bias exists everywhere—from the front pages of influential newspapers to daily network newscasts to slanted social media posts. “News” stories have now become opinion pieces.

The liberal national media ignore events that would be scandals if they involved conservatives. Consider how little follow-up there has been of the politicizing of the IRS, the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, the illegal immigration amnesties, the secret terms of the Iran deal, and the videos of unborn babies' organs being sold.

In short, media bias affects almost every issue that Americans care about.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF PHILLIP MORRILL'S SERVICE TO WOLFEBORO FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT IN WOLFEBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Granite State first responder for forty years of service to the Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.

Chief Philip “Butch” Morrill joined the Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department in September of 1975 as a call firefighter. Four years later on October 23, 1979 he joined the ranks of the department as a full time firefighter, committed to protecting his community and the Greater Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Firefighter Morrill was a standout member of the department and would work through the ranks of the department over the next twenty five years before being appointed Chief on May 3, 2004. In addition to his duties with the Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department, Chief Morrill was also an active member of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, serving as its President in 2013–2014.

On November 30, 2015 Chief Morrill retired with forty years of service to the people of Wolfeboro and the Granite State. On behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of New Hampshire, I thank him for his dedicated service to the community and wish him all the best in his retirement.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 (H.R. 4127)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, last June the House voted on a partisan Intelligence Authorization, H.R. 2596. Along with 178 of my colleagues, I voted against that authorization. Since June, negotiations among Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have taken place resulting in the improved bill before us today, H.R. 4127.

This bipartisan compromise ensures that the Intelligence Community will have the funding

and resources they need to keep America safe, maintain necessary intelligence capabilities, and counter a myriad of threats, including ISIL and cybersecurity. It strengthens Congressional oversight and provides strict authorizations and limitations on intelligence activities. Along with reforms included in the bipartisan USA Freedom Act of 2015 which was signed into law in June of this year, H.R. 4127 makes critical steps towards ensuring our intelligence programs are conducted responsibly and with strong accountability to maximize both security and privacy.

As importantly, H.R. 4127 rectifies the inappropriate and unnecessary use of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding that was included in H.R. 2596 to circumvent the Budget Control Act funding caps. This correction will allow for more stable budgeting for the Intelligence Community for the remainder of the fiscal year.

However, this bill unfortunately continues to contain provisions that will prevent the closure of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. While I strongly oppose measures to prevent the closure of the detention center, the provisions in H.R. 4127 have already been codified into law in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

Ensuring that our Intelligence Community has the resources, support and tools they need is critical to our national security. We must also ensure that strong privacy protections are included to ensure that we safeguard our civil liberties. While not perfect, this compromise is much improved from the bill that left this House in June and therefore earns my support.

HONORING KYLE WEIGAND

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kyle Weigand for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Kyle is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Kyle is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Kyle Weigand for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RE-STORING THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COUNTY HEALTH CARE COSTS ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to restore the partnership between the federal government and counties for the health care costs of inmates who have not been convicted of a crime. This legislation will provide some relief to our nation's local economies, while embodying the fundamental principles of our legal justice system.

In almost all states, a person who is incarcerated in a county jail or juvenile detention facility loses their Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP or SSI benefits even if they have not been convicted of a crime. The U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of the 8th Amendment requires government entities to provide medical care to all inmates. As a result, local governments are burdened with the expense of providing health care to thousands of men, women and children currently awaiting trial.

Providing health care for inmates constitutes a major portion of local jail operating costs. Requiring county governments to cover health care costs for inmates who have not yet been convicted of a crime places an unnecessary burden on local governments, which have their fair share of widespread budget deficits and cuts to safety net programs and other essential services.

Terminating benefits to inmates who are awaiting trial violates the presumption of innocence, which is a cornerstone principle of our justice system. The current practice does not distinguish between persons who are awaiting disposition of charges and persons who have been duly convicted and sentenced. This disproportionately affects low-income and minority populations who are often unable to post bond, which would enable them to continue receiving benefits.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation addresses this problem by prohibiting the federal government from stripping individuals of their Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI benefits before the inmate has been convicted of a crime. It preserves the partnership between the federal and local governments and ensures that local governments are not burdened with an unfair share of meeting the mandate to guarantee medical coverage. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense bill that addresses a problem affecting communities all across the nation.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM KIRWAN

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. William Kirwan for his service to the people of Maryland. Earlier this year, Dr. Kirwan retired after serving as Chancellor of the University System of Maryland for 12 years. The system includes 12 universities, which run from Frostburg State in Western

Maryland to Salisbury University on the Eastern Shore. Nine of these universities have ranked among the best in their category by the US News and World Report.

Dr. Kirwan began his career in 1964 as a math professor at the University of Maryland—College Park. For the next five decades—fifty one years—he dedicated himself to higher education. I believe part of why Dr. Kirwan was such an effective leader was the depth and range of his experience. Prior to leading our University System, he was a professor, he was the Chair of the Math Department, he was a provost and he was ultimately President of the University of Maryland College Park and President of Ohio State University.

I believe Dr. Kirwan should be an example to us all. He was a skilled administrator who never lost sight of what education is all about—students learning in the class room. To conclude, thank you Dr. Kirwan. Thank you for your service to the people of Maryland, to the students and parents of Maryland. Your dedication, insight and passion for education will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIMMY
TWO DOGS COPLIN

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vietnam Veteran and Native American artist, Jimmy Two Dogs Coplin, who recently passed away in his Cicero, Illinois home at the age of 57.

Mr. Coplin lost his sight to diabetes but continued to create striking works of art with Native American themes using ceramics, silver, feathers and arrows.

Kiowa men and women have served in the armed forces since World War I and Mr. Coplin continued this honorable tradition by serving in the Army during Vietnam.

Mr. Coplin will be remembered fondly by his family, friends and many of his patrons. Mr. Coplin's dedication to his art and country will continue to live on and inspire others.

Mr. Coplin is survived by his mother, Edith Rokita, sister, Vicky Whitaker, daughter, Melissa Rokita, son, Bubba James Rokita, and two grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF MILDRED
HAILEY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mildred Hailey, tenant activist and community leader, who passed away on November 18, 2015.

Mrs. Hailey was born in Jackson, Mississippi eighty-two years ago. As a child, her family moved to Boston. At the time, Boston was not as open to diversity as it is today. Mrs. Hailey's family, being among the first African-American families in their neighborhood, suffered from discrimination and were treated by some of their neighbors with antipathy. Mildred

approached this as a challenge to become a community leader.

By the 1960s, Mrs. Hailey had taken a leadership role at the Bromley-Heath housing development and, with co-founder Anna Mae Cole, incorporated the Bromley-Heath Tenant Management Corporation (TMC). The TMC was the nation's first tenant-run public housing development.

Initially, TMC, under Mrs. Hailey's leadership, tackled basic quality of life issues on behalf of Bromley-Heath residents: fixing broken windows, making sure basic utilities were in working order, ensuring trash pickup. Eventually TMC moved on to residents' greater needs, such as creating a day care program, developing a health center on the Bromley-Heath campus and running its own security force. Finally, Mrs. Hailey and TMC became instrumental in guiding development around Bromley-Heath, partnering to bring a supermarket to the neighborhood, protesting to successfully halt a planned highway close by and lending an outspoken voice in planning the Southwest Corridor Park. Through it all, Mrs. Hailey always had time and energy to bring together the members of her beloved Bromley-Heath community to work out disagreements and support one another. She was truly an indispensable leader.

In closing, I salute Mildred Hailey for her leadership, selflessness and passion for her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 I was not present to vote on H.R. 158 and H.R. 3842. I wish to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for roll call No. 679, I would have voted "YEA."

Had I been present for roll call No. 680, I would have voted "YEA."

HONORING KALEB STOLBA

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kaleb Stolba for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Kaleb is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Kaleb is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman

year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Kaleb Stolba for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING GERRY
HYLAND ON HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District Supervisor on the occasion of his retirement from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors following 28 years of faithful service.

Gerry was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1987, serving as Chairman of the Fire Commission and co-chair of the Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Committee. He also served as a member of the Budget Policy, Development Process, Environmental, Housing and Community Development, Human Services, Information Technology, Personnel and Reorganization, and Transportation Committees.

Yet serving on the Board of Supervisors was just one part of Gerry's commitment and service to our community. Prior to being elected to that position, he also served on the Board of Zoning Appeals and as both President and Member of the Board of United Community Ministries and the Fairfax Human Rights Commission.

Gerry's commitment to service has extended across regional boundaries. He served on the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, the Virginia Association of Counties, the National Association of Counties, as past chairman of the Virginia Railway Express, and as a past board member of both the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

Gerry was also appointed by the Governor of Virginia to serve on several boards and commissions including the Virginia History Initiative, the Commission on Population, Growth and Development, and the Local Government Advisory Committee for the Chesapeake Bay over the course of his career.

In addition to his numerous contributions at the civilian level, Gerry served 30 years in the United States Air Force, 6 years active duty (4 of which were spent overseas) and 23 years in the Reserves. He retired at the rank of Colonel while serving as a White House Liaison.

He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award for Outstanding Leadership to the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, Cooperator of the Year Award from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Dedicated Support Award from the Medical Care

for Children Partnership, and the Gold Medal for Lifesaving from the Grande Prix Humanitaire de France.

These awards and accolades are testimony to Gerry's quality as a leader and the determination with which he approached his work. One need look no further than his own Mount Vernon district for evidence of this. Whether it was shepherding the community through the BRAC process and helping to manage the enormous growth at Fort Belvoir, to the establishment of the Richmond Highway Express Bus Route, the creation of the South County Government Center, advocating for the construction of a new high school and middle school to serve the growing population, the preservation of Inova's Mount Vernon facilities or the securing of affordable housing for seniors at Gum Springs, you could always count on Gerry Hyland being knowledgeable and fully engaged with every situation that was brought to him. Gerry truly cares about his constituents and has dedicated every minute of his time in office to improving their lives and our South County community.

I will always remember the grace with which he approached his work. Even in the face of unimaginable tragedy brought by the death of his wife, he continued to put the needs of others before his own. When we served together on the Board of Supervisors, he would routinely bring fresh produce from his farm on the Eastern Shore to share with us, a tradition that continues to this day. Just when you didn't think it was possible for one man to give any more, Gerry would prove you wrong.

Mr. Speaker, Gerry Hyland has been a fixture of the community in Fairfax County for more than 35 years. While he may be officially retiring from the Board of Supervisors, I suspect that he will remain an active advocate for the causes that are dear to him. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating him on his retirement, in thanking him for his immeasurable dedication and commitment to our community, and in wishing him all the best for continued health and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR ADAM
F. MCCOMBS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Major Adam F. McCombs for his exemplary dedication to duty and his service to the United States Army and to our great nation. Most recently, Adam served as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). He will be transitioning from his present assignment to serve as an Advisor in the Office of the Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard, United States Army.

A native of Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, Adam was commissioned as an Armor officer after his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree. He has since earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Adam has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Prior to

working as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison, Adam's assignments included serving as Scout Platoon Leader and Troop Executive Officer in 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado; Company Commander of a Warrior Transition Company at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Assistant S3 in the 25th Infantry Division Headquarters Battalion and Cavalry Troop Commander in 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Adam has commanded Soldiers in combat as a Platoon Leader and Troop Commander. He deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq in 2005–2006, and deployed to Afghanistan in 2008–2009 and again in 2011–2012.

The Second Congressional District of Georgia gained a compassionate and knowledgeable resource in 2013 when Adam was selected to work in my Washington, D.C. office as an Army Congressional Fellow. In this capacity, Adam handled military and veterans issues from a legislative and casework perspective and worked closely with the staff on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

Next, in his role as a Congressional Budget Liaison, he continued to collaborate with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, ensuring that the Army's budget positions were extremely well represented and articulated to the Committees.

Major Adam McCombs' leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his Soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, and all Americans, in extending our sincerest appreciation to Major Adam F. McCombs for his distinguished service to our nation. In addition to gratitude for his selfless service and instrumental role in supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Major McCombs has the respect, admiration, and affection of many on Capitol Hill. We wish him and his wife, Traci, all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

U.S.-GEORGIA RELATIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Georgia Caucus along with Congressman GERALD CONNOLLY, I would like to take a moment to discuss the importance of a strong U.S.-Georgia relationship.

Our ally Georgia is a beacon of hope for democracy and capitalism in Eastern Europe. In a region full of turmoil, Georgia continuously strives to spread the ideologies of democracy and freedom to all. While there is still work to be done, Georgia has made many advances in recent years to strengthen democratic values.

Georgia has proved to be a strategic trade partner. U.S. trade with Georgia has increased over the past several years as Georgia continues to bolster its democratic and market-economy institutions. In light of this growth, it

would be a smart move to initiate negotiations on a U.S.-Georgia Free Trade Agreement. In 2012, President Obama announced that Georgia and the U.S. had agreed to a high-level dialogue to strengthen trade relations, including the possibility of a free trade agreement. Now is the time to make this idea a reality.

Another critical reason why we must strengthen our ties with Georgia is because Russian aggression in the region is more threatening now than ever. In 2008, I was in Georgia and saw Russian tanks roll in to Georgia, occupying 25% of the country. Back then I knew Putin's radical agenda would continue to threaten our ally for years to come. Sadly, I have not been proven wrong. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is another example of Putin's greedy appetite for conquest. The best deterrent we can offer Georgia is the protection we have given to European countries in the past from Russian bullying: NATO membership. It is time for the United States to put our full weight of support into ensuring that Georgia is given NATO membership.

Even with the regional security threats stemming from Russia, Georgia has demonstrated time and again its commitment to being a force for good in the international community. For example, Georgia has provided more troops to the effort in Afghanistan than any other non-NATO member. Georgian troops have fought and died on the battlefield alongside our own American troops. We must recognize and reward their bravery and sacrifice. Georgia's ascension to NATO must be a priority for next summer's NATO conference.

Mr. Speaker, we all should recognize the importance of strengthening our relationship with Georgia. It is in our national security interests to support this ally, and it is our duty to ensure we foster a healthy, mutually beneficial partnership.

And that's just the way it is.

MEDIA IGNORE ADMINISTRATION
SCANDALS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the national liberal media repeatedly comment that the current administration is "scandal free." But that's because they ignore scandals involving Democrats.

For example, Hillary Clinton claims that everyone knew she used a private email server as Secretary of State. Yet, White House officials stated they were unaware of the server. The media has yet to pursue what was known or why the use of this server was allowed.

The national media also has failed to uncover who gave the orders for the IRS to target conservatives or if White House officials helped cover up the incident.

And when an American is murdered by an illegal immigrant, the press never connects the loss of life to the president's refusal to enforce our immigration laws.

The only people who believe the administration is "scandal free" are its allies in the national liberal media.

RECOGNIZING BANDERA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize three power linemen from the Bandera Electric Cooperative: Jay Rasberry, John Hernandez and Garrett Clark. These linemen volunteered for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation and spent three weeks in northern Haiti building and upgrading power lines. These efforts have helped communities in Haiti receive affordable, safe and reliable energy.

These three power linemen worked side by side with NRECA International on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Pilot Project for Sustainable Electricity Distribution. This project commercializes power from the Caracol Industrial Park generation station that is currently serving 8,000 consumers in Caracol and surrounding communities with electricity 24 hours a day. When the project is complete, a total of 10,000 consumers will have access to electricity.

Less than 15% of the people in Haiti have access to electricity. The service and sacrifice of these linemen will impact the lives of thousands of Haitians resulting in improvements in healthcare, education, and economic opportunity.

In appreciation of all they have done, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their humanitarian efforts.

HONORING STEPHEN COOK

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen Cook for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Stephen is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. He is also currently on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, making this accomplishment even more impressive. FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Stephen is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman year of high school through participation in every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to rec-

ognize Stephen Cook for receiving this prominent award and thank him for his service to our county before the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 21ST
CENTURY POWER GRID ACT

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the 21st Century Power Grid Act. The bill would finance public-private partnerships to carry out innovative projects related to the modernization of the electric grid.

Unfortunately, today the U.S. electric grid is still operating in the 20th Century. We must act now to improve grid reliability, flexibility, efficiency and security. There are literally a limitless number of ways in which the federal government can play a part to help modernize the electric grid. What we cannot afford is the status quo.

Whether it's the application of digital technologies, advanced communications and control, distributed energy resources, resilience, cybersecurity, or providing customers with more choice in energy source, usage and rates; it's a completely new world for how we can generate, distribute and consume electricity.

The federal government—in partnership with state and local governments, the private sector and ratepayers—must play a role in developing a strategy for the modernization of the electric grid and be an investor in the research, development and deployment of new advanced technologies.

The 21st Century Power Grid Act would direct the Department of Energy to provide assistance, in the form of grants or cooperative agreements, to help advance the future grid. In order to be eligible to receive this assistance, utilities can partner with entities such as national labs, universities, or state and local governments to develop or demonstrate new grid technologies or energy management techniques.

Most have heard the term “smart grid,” but I'm not sure many appreciate how truly revolutionary it could be if we were to achieve a smarter grid. “Imagine a city in the middle of a deep freeze. The local power grid is struggling to keep up with everyone's heaters. What if the grid could automatically communicate with buildings in the area and negotiate reduced power consumption in exchange for a financial incentive? A large hotel that's only half-full due to the weather could dial back its thermostats, saving money on their bill and enabling the grid to divert that energy to homes and schools.”

This scenario was taken directly from the website of one of our national labs, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. PNNL and their partners recently completed a two year project that successfully demonstrated that this sort of communication and cooperative energy usage is possible.

In your own home, imagine if you could throw dishes in the dishwasher or clothes in the dryer and then set the device to automatically start when you can pay the optimal rate for electricity. This is a win, win. Consumers

pay less, and utilities can more efficiently manage peak loads.

And the scenarios I've described don't even begin to scratch the surface of the potential for better integration of distributed energy sources like solar, wind and geothermal; energy storage capabilities; or other advances that only become conceivable when you do the type of basic research this country has always supported and excelled in.

To not provide the Department of Energy with resources to invest in smart grid research and development would be akin to preventing the National Institutes of Health from doing medical cures research. The electric grid is an indispensable element of modern society and is critical to our national security, economy and the general well-being of the citizenry.

I urge my colleagues to support the 21st Century Power Grid Act.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,789,199,596,566.93. We've added \$8,162,322,547,653.85 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CLASS 1A—ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Purple Raiders of Arcola Jr. High School as the IHSA Class 1A high school state champions.

On November 27, 2015 Arcola defeated Stark County by 35–17 winning the Class 1A State Championship. I would like to recognize the effort of this amazing team and congratulate them on their historic season as they celebrate their first state championship title in 27 years.

I would also like to congratulate the Strader family. Brothers Clayton and Connor and their cousin Chase for contributing to six touchdowns and several tackles. Tommy Eddleman, Jim Fishel, Aldo Garcia, Chad Hopkins, Jarod Kiger, and John Lidy make up the coaching staff which supported Athletic Director and Head Coach, Zach Zehr to provide great leadership for these talented football players.

I look forward to the continued success of the Arcola Jr. High School. I extend my best wishes for another outstanding season next year.

The following are Arcola Purple Raider Varsity Football players: Conner Strader, Clayton Strader, Parker Ingram, Kollin Seaman, Martin

Rund, Daniel Mendoza, Victor Gonzalez, Myles Roberts, Blake Lindenmeyer, Seth Still, Chase Strader, Mario Cortez, Sam Crane, Alec Downs, Tony Salinas, Wyatt Fishel, Giovanni Salinas, Brandon Lebeter, Cole Hut-ton, Rey Garza, Ethan Still, Mason Gentry, Javi Leal, Pablo Rodriguez, Kaleb Byard, Jonny Garza, Dalton Pantier, Gavin Coombe, Luke Spencer, Tito Garcia, Clayton Kuhring, Jack Spencer, Alex Kauffman, Aaron Dudley, Grant McPherson, Jorge Garza, and Jack Nacke.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD
SHICKLE'S RETIREMENT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Richard Shickle, an extraordinarily gifted leader from the northern Shenandoah Valley, on his retirement.

Very proud of his roots in Frederick County, Richard Shickle has applied the values with which he was raised and the education he received at James Wood High School and Virginia Tech to have an extraordinary influence on the place he has always called home. Armed with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a professional designation as a Certified Public Accountant, Richard Shickle has spent decades as a strong and visionary leader of two of the most important institutions in the Shenandoah Valley, the Government of Frederick County and Shenandoah University.

Richard Shickle is the longest serving Chairman At-Large of a county board of supervisors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For twenty years, he has served the citizens of Frederick County, four as Supervisor for the Gainesboro District, and sixteen as Chairman of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors.

Under Chairman Shickle's conservative leadership, Frederick County has experienced great economic growth that has included business relocations and expansions by H.P. Hood, Kraft Foods, Fisher Scientific, McKesson, O.N. Minerals and Navy Federal Credit Union.

The county's low taxes have fostered the growth of many small businesses while still providing for important capital improvement projects, including the Bowman Library, the Frederick County Public Safety Building, several schools including Millbrook High School, and the Frederick County Transportation Center.

And Chairman Shickle's penchant for careful planning has resulted in the Rural Areas Recommendation and Report, as well as the establishment of the Frederick County Economic Development Authority, which has proven to be an important economic development tool for the county.

As though the responsibilities of being Chairman of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors had not been sufficiently challenging, until recently, Richard Shickle also served, for 32 years, as Vice President for Administration and Finance of Shenandoah University during a period of rapid growth. In that capacity, he oversaw the offices of the university that are responsible for its administrative, financial, budgetary, and physical plant func-

tions; and coordinated its student employment, legal services and insurance programs.

In retirement, Richard will continue to serve on boards and commissions, generously offering his knowledge and wisdom to the many valley leaders who will be seeking his counsel. He and his wife, Louise Marie Grube Shickle, are also looking forward to spending more time with their four children, Denise, Lisa, Richard, Jr. and Martha, as well as their eight grandchildren.

As the member of the House of Representatives from Virginia's 10th Congressional District, I know that I echo the sentiments of the people of the northern Shenandoah Valley in expressing deep gratitude for the strong leadership and dedicated service of "favorite son", Richard C. Shickle, Sr., who has left such a positive and lasting mark on our valley community.

I also know I'm joined by thousands of others whose lives he has touched, in wishing him and Louise many interesting and satisfying years of retirement to come.

IN SUPPORT OF AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I was at the Supreme Court observing the oral arguments in the case of *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*, No. 14–981.

The issue to be decided in the *Fisher* case is whether the undergraduate admissions policy of the University of Texas at Austin complies with the principles established by the Supreme Court in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003).

In *Grutter*, the Court held that "obtaining the educational benefits of 'student body diversity is a compelling state interest that can justify the use of race in university admissions.'" 539 U.S. at 325.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a representative from a state that has played a pivotal role in the Supreme Court's educational equity jurisprudence, beginning with the landmark case of *Sweatt v. Painter*, 339 U.S. 629 (1950), won by Thurgood Marshall and which held that segregated law schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and laid the foundation for the landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Supreme Court to uphold the admissions policy of the University of Texas at Austin because affirmative action is needed to ensure the diversity on college campuses that will yield diversity in the ranks of America's future leaders.

In a globalized and increasingly interconnected world, the nation that succeeds is the one best positioned to adapt to a world of differences—cultural, religious, economic, social, racial, and political.

The key to success in a diverse global economy is learning to adapt and thrive in diverse communities where the next generation and its leader are educated and trained.

And that is why it is critical that the Court uphold the principle it established in *Grutter v. Bollinger* in 2002 that diversity in higher edu-

cation is such a compelling governmental interest that race-conscious admission policies are permissible if other alternatives are found to be inadequate.

This is the situation presented by the facts in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*, which was reargued before the Court today.

Although the University of Texas's consideration of race is very narrow—just one of many factors in the admissions process—its impact has been significant in advancing educational benefits flowing from a diverse student body.

From 1997 to 2004, affirmative action in admissions at the University of Texas was barred by the infamous Fifth Circuit decision in *Hopwood v. Texas*, 78 F.3d 932 (5th Cir. 1996).

As a result of the University of Texas's inability to consider a qualified applicant's race in the admissions process, between 1997 and 2004 African-American students never comprised more than 4.5% of the entering class—far below the 13% of Texas high school graduates who are African Americans.

Worse yet, for the students attending the University of Texas, during that period, 4 out of every 5 of classes (79%) at the University had zero, or only one, African-American student.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way to produce a generation of leaders for the 21st century.

With the Supreme Court decision in *Grutter*, the University of Texas could add race to other criteria considered in its individualized admissions policy.

And behold the results—28% of African Americans enrolled at the University were admitted at this stage of admissions process, a stark contrast to the 4.5% of the student body represented by African Americans in the preceding 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, affirmative action works; it is the right thing to do for our country.

Fostering educational diversity and greater opportunity is critical to our nation's future in a global economy and an increasingly interconnected world.

That is why diversity is supported by a broad cross-section of American society, including military leaders, major corporations, small business owners, educators, and students from all backgrounds.

An America that celebrates diversity in higher education will produce the leaders, inventors, entrepreneurs, diplomats, public servants, and teachers that will serve our nation well in the global economy of the 21st century.

And of the most important things that can be done to ensure this bright future is for the Supreme Court to affirm the judgment of the 5th Circuit and uphold the admissions policy of the University of Texas.

A MAJORITY OF IMMIGRANT
HOUSEHOLDS RELY ON WELFARE

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent report found that more than half of immigrant households (both legal and illegal) in the United States receive welfare benefits—compared to only 30% of native households.

The report by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) determined that welfare use increased significantly for households with children.

Almost half of immigrant households who have been in the country for more than 20 years still rely on welfare. This contradicts the commonly held notion that long-time immigrants don't consume government benefits.

Our immigration and welfare programs should not subsidize other nations' low-skilled workers who compete with struggling American families for scarce jobs.

The CIS report reminds us how much work remains before we have an immigration system that puts the interests of Americans first.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1283

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I rise today in support of H.R. 1283, the Songwriter Equity Act. In today's evolving entertainment environment, songwriters sometimes don't get the credit or the pay they deserve—and it's time to change that.

H.R. 1283 will ensure that these artists receive fair pay every time someone listens to their song—whether from satellite radio or digital music services and downloads.

Congress established royalty rates of just two cents per copy in 1909, when Irving Berlin was beginning his career. Now, over 100 years later, the royalty rate has increased only to just over nine cents per copy. It's time to give songwriters the pay they deserve in today's dollars and cents.

Thank you to my colleagues Rep. DOUG COLLINS and Rep. HAKEEM JEFFRIES for their strong support of the arts here in Congress—I'm proud to support them, the arts, and this bill.

HONORING CHRIS CORMAN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Corman for being awarded the American FFA Degree as a member of the National FFA Organization. Chris is a member of the Willow Springs Chapter of the FFA and, with four of its other members, received this prestigious award. FFA is an inter-curricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership consisting of 629,367 members, aged 12–21. Chris is among the 463 FFA members from Missouri that received the American FFA degree, marking the highest number of recipients from any state.

As a past recipient of the American FFA Degree, I offer my highest congratulations as I understand the hard work and effort required to reach this goal. In order to obtain the American FFA Degree, a member must begin their pursuit of the award during their freshman year of high school through participation in

every level of the organization and leadership events.

As a former member of FFA, I can proudly say that my experience in the organization was invaluable learning about leadership skills and public speaking. It is my pleasure to recognize Chris Corman for receiving this prominent award before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING AISHA KARIMAH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Aisha Karimah, who is retiring from NBC4 Washington after 46 years of outstanding service to the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Residents have seen Aisha at many of our charitable events in the city and region, but far more often, they have seen only her good works in many community campaigns. We could not count the people or the dollars Aisha's efforts have helped bring to our most successful community campaigns, among them: Beautiful Babies Right from the Start, Drug Free Zones, It Takes a Whole Village, Make the Right Call, Camp 4 Kids, Get Healthy 4 Life, Backpacks 4 Kids, Food 4 Families, and the NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo. In addition, Aisha produces two weekly news programs: Reporters Notebook and Viewpoint. A veteran television producer, Aisha also has generously lent her gifts to Howard University Television, including the Urban Health Report, Washington's Leaders and the Randall Robinson Program. Ms. Karimah is a particularly positive and dedicated role model for African Americans and for women entering journalism, and serves as a mentor to hundreds of young people. Aisha herself is a graduate of Howard University and Wesley Theological Seminary. She has been an extraordinary friend and guidepost to the District and to me ever since I have been a Member of Congress.

While Aisha has been engaged in a successful career in television and journalism, she also has been a devoted mother of two sons: Donnell, a graduate of American and George Washington universities, and Jay, a Howard University graduate.

Aisha Karimah's success, of course, has come from her tireless efforts, her love for her community and her drive to excel in her profession. However, Aisha gives all the credit to God. Aisha, a native Washingtonian who grew up on welfare in the District's Lincoln Heights public housing complex and started work at the age of 10, says her faith has helped her to rise to the top of her profession and serve her hometown at the same time. Aisha kept going at NBC4 despite illness. Now, after 46 years, often behind the scenes, bringing countless campaigns to our city and region, the time has come for Aisha herself to take a much deserved bow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Aisha Karimah for excellence well beyond the call of duty for NBC4 Washington, the District of Columbia,

and the national capital region for 46 remarkable years.

HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues of the humanitarian crisis that continues to unfold in Eastern Ukraine. While the media, and the world, focuses on the Syrian migrant crisis, winter is fast approaching for the millions affected by the conflict in Ukraine. As we speak, there are over 1.5 million people internally displaced, 1.1 million externally displaced, and more than 5 million people in need of humanitarian aid. Thousands have died in the fighting, and thousands more lie injured. Homes and schools are being destroyed, and the movement of goods and people is severely restricted. As temperatures edge toward zero, we must remember why Ukrainians find themselves in need. They are in need because of their rejection of Russian authoritarianism and of Vladimir Putin's aggressive expansionism. They are in need because they are fighting to defend their freedom and their democracy. We, the United States, as a beacon of liberty and democratic government, must demonstrate our solidarity with our Ukrainian brethren and our unwavering belief in the ideals for which they fight. We must provide food, we must provide shelter, we must provide blankets. We, as Americans, must provide support to those willing to stand up to Russia in defense of freedom and democracy. I call on my colleagues to join me in urging President Obama to increase humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED		DECEMBER 15	JANUARY 20
DECEMBER 11		2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
2 p.m.	Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe To receive a briefing on human rights violations in Russian-occupied Crimea. RHOB-B318	Committee on Veterans' Affairs To hold hearings to examine transition assistance. SR-418	Committee on Armed Services
			Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
			To hold an oversight hearing to examine Task Force for Business and Stability Operations projects in Afghanistan. SR-232A